

ADDRESSES
1863

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ADDRESSES

1861-1903

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Late Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865

Addresses 1863

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

June 2

W E E K

A Philadelphia in 1863, Lincoln in reply to a committee of the Presbyterian Church said:

In my administration I might have committed some errors. It would be indeed remarkable if I had not. I have acted according to my best judgment in every case. As a pilot I have used my best exertions to keep afloat our ship of state, and shall be glad to resign my trust at the appointed time to another pilot more skilled and successful than I may prove. In every case, and at all hazards, the government must be perpetuated. Relying, as I do, upon the Almighty Power, and encouraged, as I am, by these resolutions which you have just read, with the support which I receive from Christian men, I shall not hesitate to use all the means at my control to secure the termination of this rebellion and will hope for success.

Unpublicized Talk Among Lincoln's Best

BY RALPH A. MILLER

Historic Lincoln mementoes still turn up in the least expected places after lying in dust for 85 years since the president's death. The greatest single source remaining today are copies of 1860-1865 period newspapers.

A timely example pivots around a copy of the July 11, 1863 issue of the "New York Weekly Tribune." The paper recounts the day to day events of a memorable week that a war-weary populace recognized as a turning point in the Civil war. And for added good measure, included one of Abraham Lincoln's best, unpublicized speeches.

An official navy dispatch announcing the fall of strategic Vicksburg set the chain of events into motion.

The whole country was electrified on Tuesday morning by the publication of the following brief telegram:

**U. S. Mississippi Squadron
Flagship Black Hawk, July 4, 1863
Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary
of Navy**

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that Vicksburg has surrendered to the United States on this 4th of July.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant, D. D. Porter, Acting Rear Admiral

Good news travels fast. Before the varied special Vicksburg dispatches filed reached printers' ink that week-end word had flashed around the country. The dispatches were relegated to page 5.

Speaking for the country as a whole, President Lincoln made front page news with a delayed Fourth of July speech, given July 7, 1863 and reported as follows:

REJOICING OVER GOOD NEWS

A procession with bands of music proceeded to the Executive Mansion this evening. The crowd soon became immense and there were in addition to the patriotic

strains of music, repeated cheers for the president, Meade, Grant and Rosecrans. The president appeared at an upper window, and spoke as follows:

"Fellow-citizens: I am very glad indeed to see you tonight, and yet I will not say I thank you for this call, but I do most sincerely thank God for the occasion on which you have called.

"How long ago is it—eighty odd years—since on the Fourth of July for the first time in the history of the world a nation by its representatives assembled and declared as a self-evident truth that all men are created equal. That was the birthday of the United States of America.

"Since then the Fourth of July has had several peculiar recognitions. The two most distinguished men in the framing and the support of the Declaration were Thomas Jefferson and John Adams—the one having penned it and the other sustained it the most forcibly in debate—the only two of the 55 who sustained it being elected president of the United States.

"Precisely 50 years after they put their hands to the paper is pleased God Almighty to take both from the stage of action. This was indeed an extraordinary and remarkable event in our history.

"Another president, five years after, was called from this stage of existence, on the same day and month of the year; and now, in this last Fourth of July just passed, when we have a gigantic rebellion, of the bottom of which is an effort to overthrow the principle that all men were created equal, we have the surrender of a most powerful position and army on the very same day and not only so, but in a battle in Pennsylvania, near us, through three days, so rapidly fought that they might be called one great

battle on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of the month of July; and on the 4th the cohorts of those who opposed the declaration that all men were created equal, "turned tail" and ran.

"Gentlemen, this is a glorious theme and the occasion for a speech, but I am not prepared to make one worthy of the occasion. I would like to speak in words of praise due to the many brave officers and soldiers who have fought in the cause of the Union and liberties of the country from the beginning of the war.

"These are trying times, not only in success, but for the want of success. I dislike to mention the name of one single officer lest I might do wrong to those I might forget. Recent events bring up glorious names, and particularly prominent ones, but these I will not mention. Having said this much, I will now take the music."

The three day battle mentioned occurred at Gettysburg, Pa., lending credence to a belief that the 1863 Fourth of July speech alone furnished the thought and pattern for the later twenty line Gettysburg address.

Waukesha Freeman

JUL 6 - 1950

